(a) whether it is a fact that ILO came in for pointed criticism on the ruling of the Supreme Court in the year 2003, extinguishing right to strike for Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the experts in industrial relation law seeking in ILO, has sought a clear affirmation from Government that there be no long-term damage to workers' interest from the Supreme Court's excathedra denunciation of the right to strike;

(d) if so, the action taken, if any, to protect the right to strike; and

(e) whether ILO conventions 87 and 98 would be ratified?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir. The Conventions would not be ratified as our national laws and practices are not in conformity with the provisions of these Conventions.

Social Security Scheme for women bamboo workers

979. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether women bamboo workers are covered under any Social Security Scheme;

(b) if so, whether the National Commission for Women has studied their condition and sent recommendations to Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to provide social security to women like pension, insurance and health?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) The Government has launched on pilot basis the Unorganised Sector Workers' Social Security Scheme, 2004 in 50 districts

for unorganized sector workers including women workers. The list of occupations, *inter-alia*, includes forestry operations.The benefits under the scheme are old age pension, personal accidental insurance and medical insurance cover. The National Commission for Women organized a public hearing on the impact of globalization on women bamboo workers on 26.09.2003 at Malayattor, Kerala. The recommendations include (i) ensure regular employment through supply of quality bamboos at subsidized prices, (ii) to provide pension and medical aid to the workers, (iii) enhance the concept of multi-skilling, (iv) use of bamboo products in the Departments like railways, shipping, defence and road-transport, (v) establish global linkages for better marketing avenues, (vi) investment in the research and development wing to improve the quality of products, etc. The Commission has sent these recommendations to the concerned State Government and various Ministries/Departments.

Plight of Mine Child Workers in Rajasthan

†980. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a report issued by NGOs-named 'Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti' and 'Headcon' the plight of the children working in various mines in Rajasthan has been highlighted;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the number of children under fourteen years of age working in these mines alongwith their working hours and the wages being paid to them; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to improve their condition?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) The Government is not aware of any such report from the named NGOs.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Mines Act, 1952 does not permit employment of children below fourteen years of age in mines. Therefore, there is no question of fixing their working hours and wages.

(d) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.